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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,121	01/08/2002	Juha T. Rantala	G05-US	4515

7590 11/06/2003

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EXAMINER

DAVIS, BRIAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1621

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/041,121

Applicant(s)

RANTALA ET AL.

Examiner

Brian J. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election (Paper No. 8), with traverse, of the compound defined on page 2 of the election, is acknowledged.

Applicant argues that the election/restriction is improper because the Office has not identified the patentably distinct species within applicant's Markush group. Applicant further argues that applicant cannot make a reasoned election unless and until the patentably distinct species are identified.

Applicant's concerns are duly noted by the examiner, however, they are beside the point. Markush examination practice is a compound-by-compound search for which the elected species chosen by the applicant is the starting point for the search. There is no need or advantage for either the Office or the applicant to subdivide a large Markush group – literally millions of compounds in the instant case – into smaller sets in order to choose a compound, or initiate a search starting from that compound.

The examiner additionally respectfully directs applicant's attention to the second paragraph of the election/restriction requirement, where it is stated that if applicant wishes to traverse the election/restriction requirement by arguing that the claimed species are not patentably distinct (which is the underlying reasoning of applicant's traverse), the burden lies with applicant. That is, it is the burden of applicant to further subdivide a Markush group before examination has begun, not the Office's.

The election/restriction was proper and was made in order to facilitate the reasonably complete and thorough search to which applicant is entitled and is hereby made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 61 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The "use" per se of a compound is not patentable. A "use" can only be properly claimed as a process or method. 35 USC 100(b), 101. See also *Clinical Products v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475, 477 (DDC 1966); *In re Thuau*, 1943 CD 390.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The variable R^3 is undefined.

Claims 61 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

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applicant regards as the invention. The units of molecular weight are undefined.

Additionally, the exactly meaning of the term "another compound" is unclear.

The remaining claims are also rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as claims which depend from indefinite claims are also indefinite. *Ex parte Cordova*, 10 USPQ 2d 1949, 1952 (PTO Bd. App. 1989).

Allowable Subject Matter

The elected species has been searched and is deemed free of the prior art. The search was therefore expanded as called for under current Office Markush examination practice to include a single additional species. That species is defined when

$R^1=R^2=Me$; $R^4=CF_3$; $R^5=Br$ and $M=C$. A rejection follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-62, in so far as they read on the species defined above, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry* (1991), 55(1), p. 29-36 (CAPLUS abstract). The reference teaches applicant's compound: RN=374-04-9.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Davis whose telephone number is 703-305-7129. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 703-308-4532. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1123.

 **BRIAN DAVIS**
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Brian J. Davis
October 24, 2003